

today—we want high standards; we want accountability; we want results; we’ve got to support education—but there is a practical difference. We’re for putting 100,000 teachers into the schools to make the classes smaller because that works; they’re not for doing that. We’re for helping cities like Philadelphia, where the average school building is 65 years old, build or modernize schools. We’re for helping these schools where there are more kids in house-trailers than in the school building build new schools. They’re not for doing that. We believe that we ought to specifically fund after-school programs for every child who needs it. They think that we ought to just bundle up the money and send it down to the States and hope it all comes out right.

And they’ve accused me of trying to be America’s principal; that’s not true. We have eliminated, this Democratic administration has eliminated, two-thirds of all the regulations that were imposed on schools, school districts, and States when I became President. We’ve cut more regulations than any administration in modern history. But we have not given up requirements based on what local educators and research say works. And so there’s a big difference.

I think he’s right about that. We agree about that. But I’m not going to have a vote in Congress in 2001. It’s important that he does. And it’s important you understand the differences from top to bottom, in economic and education and all these other policies.

But that’s what I want you to think about. We can win the Senate if Ron can get enough

money. We can win the House. We can win the White House. But the people have to decide what the election is about.

You think about this. There’s a lot of things—if somebody says, “Well what kind of car are you going to buy?” the first thing you have to ask yourself is, what kind of car do you need? And then you say, well, what kind of car will you want? And then you say, well, can I afford that car? [*Laughter*] Then after you ask those questions, it more or less answers the beginning question, right?

Who are you going to vote for for President? Well, what do you think the election’s about? What do you want for your country? Can you afford what they’re promising? What are the consequences? If you ask the right questions, they get you the answer where you start. The same thing for Congress. If somebody asks you why you came here today, you say, “Because I like my Congressman; he’s a good man. He’s attentive to his duties. He’s got the right ideas. He’ll change in the right way. And I do not want to see America or our State or this congressional district blow the best chance we have ever had to build the future of our dreams for our children.”

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom A at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Marcel Groen, chairman, Montgomery County, PA, Democratic Committee; and former Representative Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky.

Statement on China-European Union Negotiations on China’s Accession to the World Trade Organization

May 19, 2000

I welcome the conclusion of the bilateral negotiations between China and the European Union on China’s accession to the WTO. This agreement highlights the importance of congressional passage of permanent normal trade relations with China.

It is now clearer than ever that China will join the World Trade Organization. For America to reap the broad benefits of China’s historic decision to open its markets and to strengthen

the forces of positive change in China, Congress must enact PNTR. A vote against PNTR will cost America exports and jobs, cede this massive new market to our competitors in Europe and Japan, and embolden those resisting reform in China.